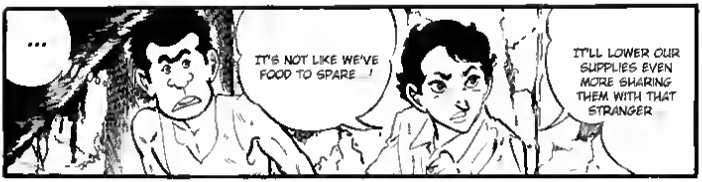
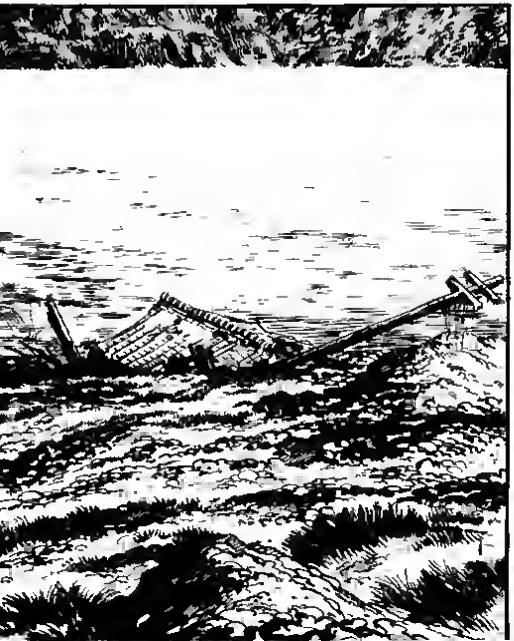
SURVIVAL

Danger 18

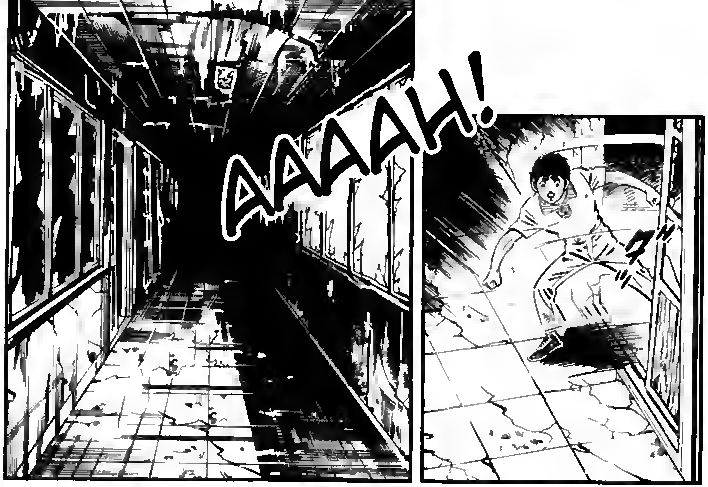
YOUKO'S TOO NAIVE!
I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN HER GIVING HALF A TOMATO TO A STRANGER...
RECKON HE'S GONNA STEAL YOUKO AWAY...?
TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THEM SHIGEO?
!


...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE FOOD TO SPARE !
IT'LL LOWER OUR SUPPLIES EVEN MORE SHARING THEM WITH THAT STRANGER

...



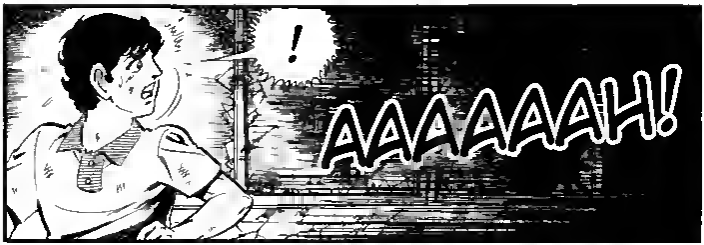
AAAAAAARGH!
!
THAT WAS A SCREAM, A HUMAN SCREAM...!
WH... WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW...?!
THERE IT IS AGAIN!
AAAAAARGH!


AAAAAH!

IT'S SOMETHING SERIOUS!
B... BUT THE VOICE!

Y... YOU JUST CAN'T GO...!

YOU MUSTN'T GO!
EH?


!
AAAAAAH!

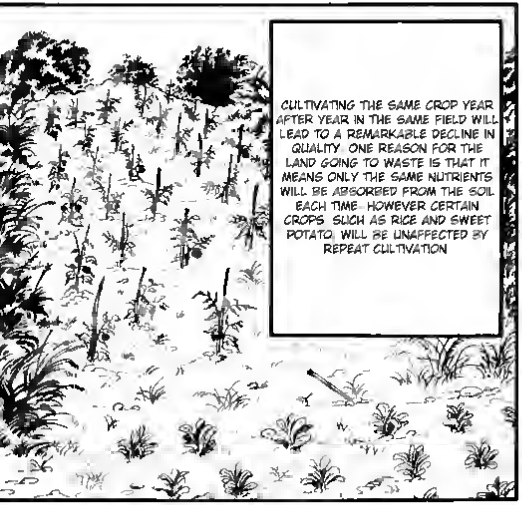
SATORU-SAN!

!
UUUUUUH!
AAAAAH!
UUUUUUH!
SHI... SHIGEO...
!

WHEN HE'S LIKE THAT IT'S BEST TO LEAVE HIM BE...
...
BUT IT'S STILL OFFPUTTING...
WE'VE ALL SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...
HE'S CRYING OUT WHILE HAVING A NIGHTMARE. HE HAS THEM EACH NIGHT...
UUUUUUH!
SOMETHING PAINFUL...
STILL... HE MUST BE SEEING SOMETHING IN HIS NIGHTMARE, TO CRY OUT LIKE THAT...
MM...
AAAAAH!
...
HE WON'T TALK ABOUT IT
BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE CAUSE...

TOMATOES AND EGGPLANTS
MMM...
HAVE YOU BEEN PLANTING THE SAME THINGS HERE FOR A LONG TIME?

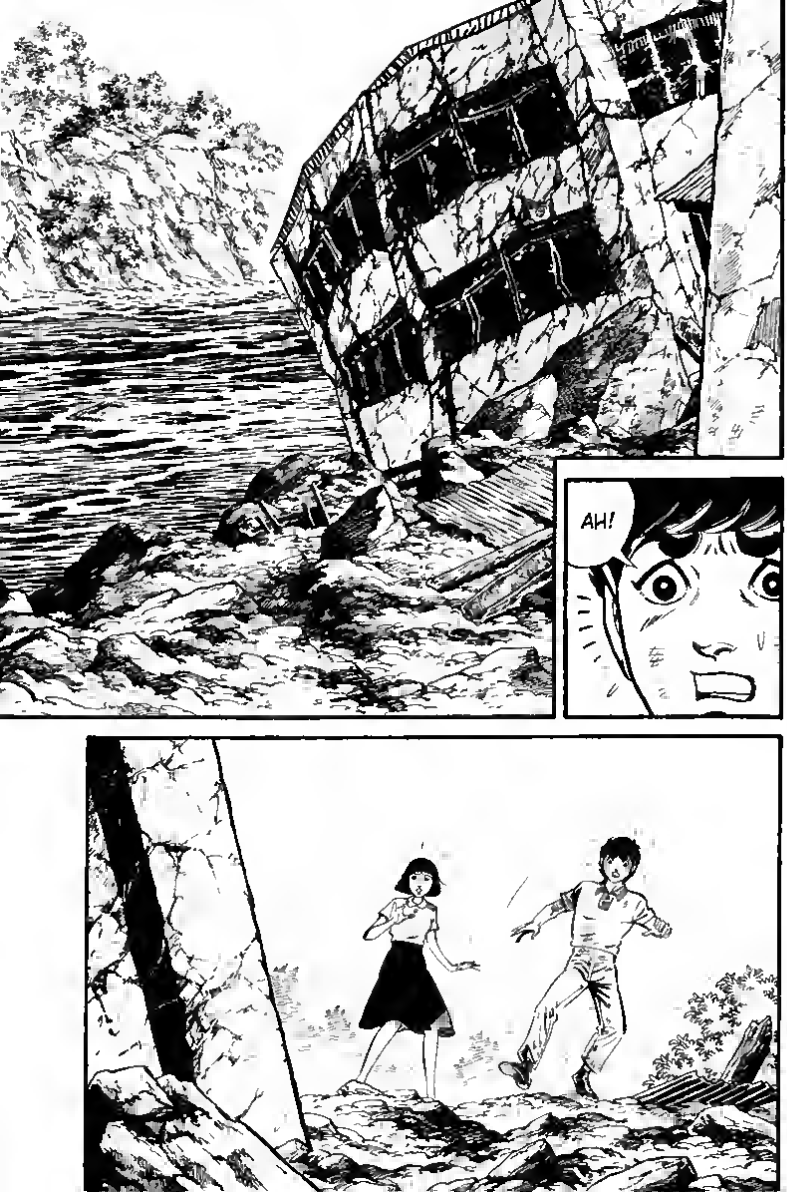
REALLY...?!
YOU HAVE TO THINK A BIT MORE ABOUT THE STUFF YOU PLANT...
PLANTING THE SAME CROP AGAIN AND AGAIN WILL WASTE AWAY THE SOIL

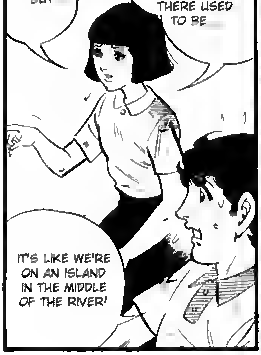

CULTIVATING THE SAME CROP YEAR AFTER YEAR IN THE SAME FIELD WILL LEAD TO A REMARKABLE DECLINE IN QUALITY. ONE REASON FOR THE LAND GOING TO WASTE IS THAT IT MEANS ONLY THE SAME NUTRIENTS WILL BE ABSORBED FROM THE SOIL EACH TIME. HOWEVER CERTAIN CROPS, SUCH AS RICE AND SWEET POTATO, WILL BE UNAFFECTED BY REPEAT CULTIVATION

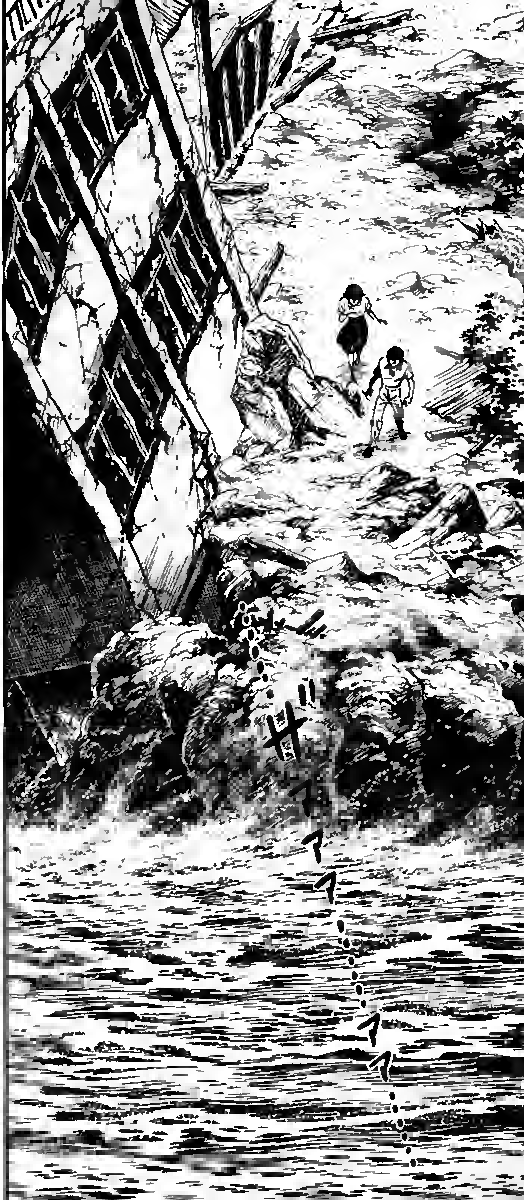
THERE'S NOT A LOT WE CAN DO... WE'VE NO FERTILIZER...
...

THE SOIL'S INFERTILE...

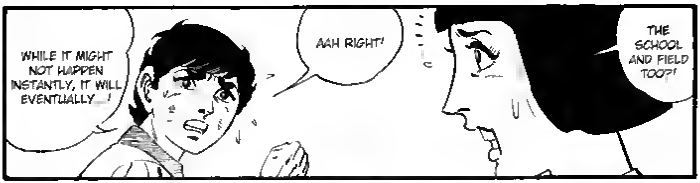
SURELY YOU COULD TALK AND WORK SOMETHING OUT!
BUT... WEREN'T THAT LOT OVER THERE PEOPLE YOU'D BEEN TO SCHOOL WITH?
WE CAN'T! SHIGEO FORBIDS IT...
THERE'D BE ANIMALS, AND EMPTY FIELDS TO USE...
LIKE THIS THE FIELD WILL SOON BE COMPLETELY GONE... WHY DON'T YOU MOVE TO THE LAND OVER THE RIVER?
HE ALWAYS SAYS THERE'S... JUST NOWHERE GOOD ENOUGH TO LIVE OVER THERE.
BOTH SIDES ARE ENEMIES, WE HATE EACH OTHER EQUALLY
NO WAY!
...
EH?!
AH, STOP! YOU CAN'T GO THAT WAY!


AH!


THE AREA S GRADUALLY COLLAPSING... THERE USED TO BE
MORE LAND OVER THERE BUT...
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER!

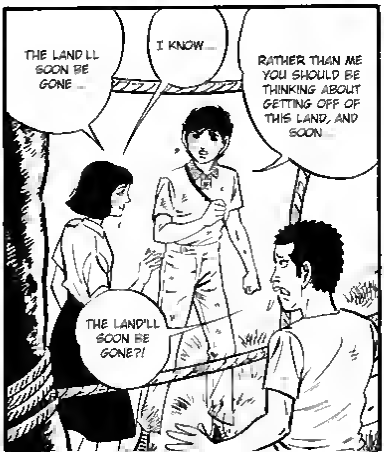


W... WITH THIS, SOME DAY THE STREAM'LL CHIP IT ALL AWAY...!


WHILE IT MIGHT NOT HAPPEN INSTANTLY, IT WILL EVENTUALLY...!
AAH RIGHT!
THE SCHOOL AND FIELD TOO?!

!
THINGS WON'T GO SO SIMPLY!

I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!
NO WAY!
YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND MOVE OVR TO THE OTHER SIDE!
BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE RIVER'LL CARRY THIS LAND AWAY!
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
WH... WHAT DO YOU KNOW ANYWAY?!
I... I SAID, YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH!
WHETHER YOU DO OR DON'T ALLOW IT, EVENTUALLY THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT HERE! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
...
QUICKLY NOW!
A... AT ANY RATE, I ONLY PROMISED YOU THE ONE NIGHT. / YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND LEAVE!


THE LAND'LL SOON BE GONE...
I KNOW...
RATHER THAN ME YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT GETTING OFF OF THIS LAND, AND SOON...
THE LAND'LL SOON BE GONE?!

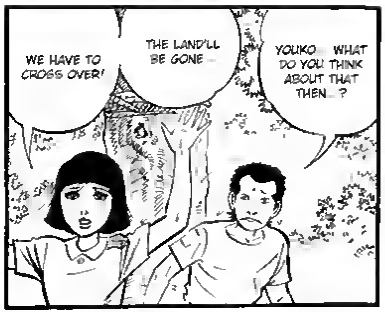
I'M SORRY... ABOUT YOUR EXPULSION...
IT'S FINE I HAVE TO GO AND LOOK FOR MY FAMILY AT ANY RATE...

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW IT'D HAPPEN ONE DAY...
MM, THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU'RE SAYING THE RIVER'LL SOON TAKE AWAY THE LAND YOUKO...?!

...
...
I'D BEEN WONDERING IF IT COULD HAPPEN WHILE LOOKING OUT OVER THERE...
I GUESS I SORTA KNEW...

AND TAKE CARE...
GOOD BYE!

WELL THEN...

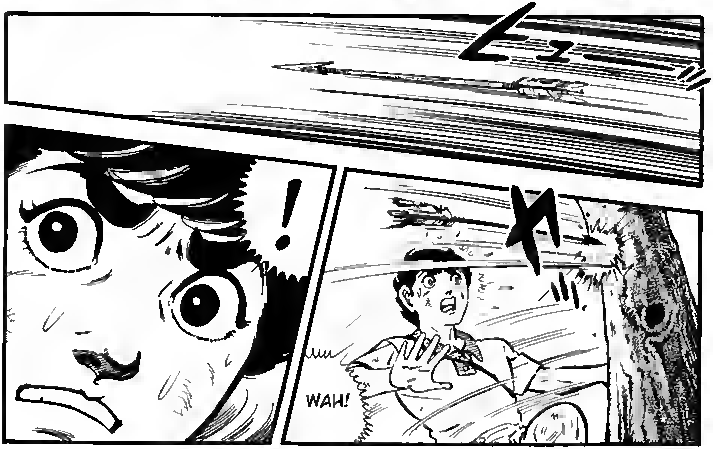

WE HAVE TO CROSS OVER!
THE LAND'LL BE GONE...
YOUKO... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT THEN...?

...

I'LL PERSUADE SHIGEO!

HAS LEFT ME STARVING ALREADY...
JUST WANDERING AROUND LIKE THIS

I NEED TO GET SOME FOOD AND FAST...!


!
WAH!